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THE BULLETIN OF THE

ACCESSIONS

OBJECT	SOURCE
11 Chinese objects	Gift of a friend of the Museum
5 Japanese sword guards	Gift of J. H. Donahey
28 Chinese paintings	Gift of Charles L. Freer, Detroit
2 Miniatures by Martha S. Baker	Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Baker, Chicago
1 Chinese-Tibetan painting	Gift of Howard P. Eells
21 Etchings by Otto H. Bacher	Gift of Mrs. Otto H. Bacher, New York

Flemish arm-chair; Flemish highboy;
2 seventeenth century Italian arm-
chairs; 2 carved William and Mary
side-chairs; Italian oval center-table;
gilt William and Mary mirror; gilt
Georgian consol; gilt Italian seven-
teenth century embroidery; 7 Corean
paintings; 7 pieces of Chinese jade;
17 pieces of Chinese pottery; 12
pieces of Persian textiles; 26 pieces
of Oriental glass; 54 Persian objects;
Gothic velvet; Italian buffet; Spanish
rug; Majolica plate, seventeenth cen-
tury; Wooden bust, St. Marcus, Sua-
bian work, about 1500; Wooden
bust, St. Paul, South German, about
1500; pair of seventeenth century
Venetian torcheres; pair of sixteenth
century Spanish doors; sixteenth
century Italian renaissance bronze
knocker; Sixteenth century gilt mirror
frame; Italian Gothic cassone; seven-
teenth century carved lectern; pair of
sixteenth century carved candlesticks;
sixteenth century carved gilt lantern;
sixteenth century carved cassone;
early seventeenth century Italian
velour de gene from the studio of
Alma Tadema; large sixteenth cen-
tury Italian cabinet and leggio in
walnut; sixteenth century Italian cas-
sone frontal of carved walnut.

The John Huntington Collection

BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN TABLETS

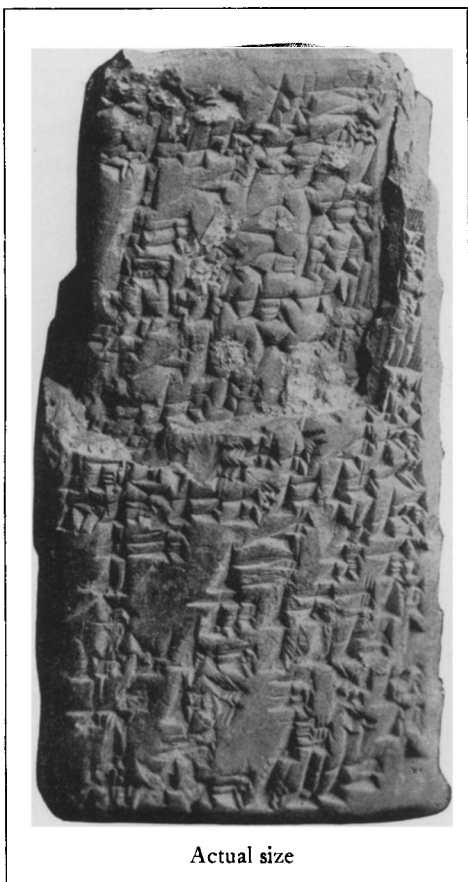
The Museum has placed in the Woodland Branch Library
a collection of Babylonian and Assyrian tablets dating from
2800 B. C. to 525 B. C., which will later go to other Branch

Libraries. These tablets represent temple records and contracts, receipts for materials delivered, messenger tablets, one letter and a votive cone in clay. There is also a stone cylinder seal engraved with figures of heroes of the Gilgamish epic, which was used by an early Babylonian scribe for sealing the clay tablets written by him and was placed in his grave at his death. Such cylinders are rare and difficult to obtain.

The letter here illustrated was sealed by the scribe who wrote it, on the ends of both the letter and envelope, by rolling over it the stone cylinder which constituted his signature. It was fashioned by hand from a bit of wet clay, and the message was stamped with a stylus which made a wedge-shaped impression. Each combination of wedges formed a syllable, the Babylonians and Assyrians not having developed an alphabet proper. After the letter was written, the bit of clay was burned, then a coating of wet clay was wrapped about to form

a protecting envelope, on which the message, or a summary thereof, was written a second time, when it was burned again. In the tablet illustrated, part of the envelope is broken away to show the letter. This rare tablet comes from the first dynasty and probably dates before 2400 B. C. Tablets from this dynasty are rare and of unusual value.

E. G. G.



Actual size